

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement, the tailgate having a range of motion between an open and a closed position, comprising:

a vehicle bed surface having a rear edge;

5 a convexly arced tailgate surface defining a gap with the rear edge; and

wherein the convexly arced tailgate surface maintains the gap at a substantially constant width along the entire range of motion of the tailgate.

2. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 1, further including an indented portion in
10 the tailgate adjacent and parallel to the convexly arced surface.

3. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 2, wherein the rear edge extends slightly into the indented portion of the tailgate when the tailgate is in the closed position.

15 4. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 3, wherein the distance between the rear edge and the indented portion is greater than the gap width when the tailgate is in the closed position.

5. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 1, further including a first cladding at least
20 partially covering the tailgate surface and wherein the convexly arced tailgate surface is defined by the cladding.

6. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 5, further including a second cladding at least partially covering the vehicle bed and wherein the rear edge is defined by the second
25 cladding.

7. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 6, further including an indented portion in the first cladding adjacent and parallel to the convexly arced surface.

30 8. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 7, wherein the rear edge extends slightly

into the indented portion when the tailgate is in the closed position.

9. A vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement, the tailgate having a range of motion between an open and a closed position, comprising:

- 5 a vehicle bed surface having a rear edge;
 - a debris clearance area having a top opening and a bottom opening;
 - a convexly arced tailgate surface defining a gap with the rear edge; and
- wherein the gap defines the top opening of the debris clearance area and the convexly arced tailgate surface maintains the gap at a substantially constant width along the entire range of
- 10 motion of the tailgate.

10. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 9, wherein the bottom opening is slightly larger than the gap when the tailgate is in the open position.

15 11. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 10, wherein the bottom opening is substantially larger than the gap when the tailgate is in the closed position.

12. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 11, wherein the debris clearance area ejects debris when the tailgate is moved from the open to the closed position.

20 13. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 9, wherein the bottom opening is substantially larger than the gap when the tailgate is in the open and closed positions.

14. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 9, further including a first cladding at least

25 partially covering the tailgate surface and wherein the convexly arced tailgate surface is defined by the cladding.

15. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 14, further including a second cladding at least partially covering the vehicle bed and wherein the rear edge is defined by the second

30 cladding.

16. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 15, further including an indented portion in the first cladding adjacent and parallel to the convexly arced surface.

5 17. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 16, wherein the rear edge extends slightly into the indented portion when the tailgate is in the closed position.

18. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 9, further including an indented portion in the tailgate adjacent and parallel to the convexly arced surface.

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19. The vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement of claim 18, wherein the rear edge extends slightly into the indented portion of the tailgate when the tailgate is in the closed position.

20. A vehicle having a bed and a tailgate swingably mounted to the vehicle about an axis of
15 rotation for movement between an open and a closed position, comprising:

a first cladding covering at least a portion of the tailgate, the first cladding having an arced surface;

a second cladding covering at least a portion of the bed and having a rear edge; and
wherein the arced portion is located between the axis of rotation and the rear edge of the vehicle
20 bed and maintains a substantially constant distance away from the rear edge of the second cladding as the tailgate is moved between the open and closed positions.

21. A cladding system for a vehicle tailgate and bed arrangement, the tailgate having a range of motion between an open and a closed position, comprising:

25 a first part covering at least a portion of the bed and having a rear edge;

a second part covering at least a portion of the tailgate, the second part having a convexly arced surface and defining a gap with the rear edge;

and wherein the convexly arced surface maintains the gap at a substantially constant width along the entire range of motion of the tailgate.

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22. The cladding system of claim 21, further including an indented portion in the second part adjacent and parallel to the convexly arced surface.

23. The cladding system of claim 22, wherein the rear edge extends slightly into the indented
5 portion of the second part when the tailgate is in the closed position.

24. The cladding system of claim 23, wherein the distance between the rear edge and the indented portion is greater than the gap width when the tailgate is in the closed position.

10 25. A cladding system for a vehicle having a bed and a tailgate swingably mounted to the vehicle about an axis of rotation for movement between an open and a closed position, comprising:

a first part covering at least a portion of the tailgate, the first part having a convexly arced surface;

a second part covering at least a portion of the bed and having a rear edge; and

15 wherein the arced portion is located between the axis of rotation and the rear edge of the vehicle bed and maintains a substantially constant distance away from the rear edge of the second part as the tailgate is moved between the open and closed positions.